CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A feedthrough assembly, which comprises:

a ferrule;

a terminal extending through said ferrule;

an insulating body disposed within at least a portion of said ferrule and surrounding at least a portion of said terminal to insulate said terminal from said ferrule, said insulating body having a first end and a second end;

a ~~brazed body~~ brazing material disposed proximate said first end and in contact with said terminal and said insulating body; and

a conductive ~~body~~ material disposed proximate said second end between said insulating body and said terminal to disperse current density from said brazing material.

2. (currently amended) A feedthrough assembly according to claim 1, wherein said insulating ~~material~~ body contacts said conductive material.

3. (Original) A feedthrough assembly according to claim 1, wherein said conductive material is more conductive than said brazing material.

4. (Original) A feedthrough assembly according to claim 1, wherein said conductive material is, upon being subjected to corrosion, essentially insoluble in an aqueous chloride solution.

5. (Original) A feedthrough assembly according to claim 1, wherein said conductive material is selected from the group consisting of platinum, iridium, carbon, and alloys of platinum, iridium, or carbon.

6. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a feedthrough assembly, which comprises the steps of:

covering a first area of a terminal with a conductive material;

surrounding a portion of said terminal with a ferrule;

disposing an insulating material between said ferrule and said portion of said terminal that is surrounded by said ferrule; and

applying a brazing material to a second area of said terminal and said insulating material with said brazing material, said brazing material being separated from said conductive material to thereby cause current density to be dispersed away from said brazing material.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein said insulating material contacts said conductive material.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein said conductive material is more conductive than said brazing material.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein said conductive material is, upon being subjected to corrosion, essentially insoluble in an aqueous chloride solution.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein said conductive material is selected from the group consisting of platinum, iridium, carbon, and alloys of platinum, iridium, or carbon.

11. (currently amended) A medical device, which comprises:

an encasement;

an electrical device disposed within said encasement; and

a feedthrough assembly, comprising:

a ferrule,

a terminal extending through said ferrule and electrically coupled to said electrical device;

an insulating body disposed within at least a portion of said ferrule and surrounding at least a portion of said terminal to insulate said terminal from said ferrule, said insulating body having a first end and a second end;

a brazed ~~body~~ material disposed proximate said first end and in contact with said terminal and said insulating body; and

a conductive ~~body~~ material disposed proximate said second end between said insulating body and said terminal to disperse current density from said brazing material.

12. (Original) A medical device according to claim 11, wherein said insulating material contacts said conductive material.

13. (Original) A medical device according to claim 11, wherein said conductive material is more conductive than said brazing material.

14. (Original) A medical device according to claim 11, wherein said conductive material is, upon being subjected to corrosion, essentially insoluble in an aqueous chloride solution.

15. (Original) A pressure sensor according to claim 11, wherein said conductive material is selected from the group consisting of platinum, iridium, carbon, and alloys of platinum, iridium, or carbon.

16. (currently amended) In a medical device having an encasement with an opening therein, and an electrical device disposed within said encasement; a method of facilitating external electrical contact with said electrical device, which comprises the steps of:

covering a first area of a terminal with a conductive material;

surrounding a portion of said terminal with a ferrule;

disposing an insulating material between said ferrule and said portion of said terminal that is surrounded by said ferrule;

applying a brazing material to a second area of said terminal and said insulating material with said brazing material, said brazing material being separated from said conductive material to thereby cause current density to be dispersed away from said brazing material;

inserting said ferrule into said encasement opening; and

coupling said terminal to said electrical device.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein said insulating material contacts said conductive material.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein said conductive material is more conductive than said brazing material.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein said conductive material is, upon being subjected to corrosion, essentially insoluble in an aqueous chloride solution.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein said conductive material is selected from the group consisting of platinum, iridium, carbon, and alloys of platinum, iridium, or carbon.